

Virginia Council on Women

Minutes

Thursday, June 30, 2022

(Meeting held in person and virtually on Zoom. Council Members in attendance through Zoom are not considered part of the quorum.)

Members Present: Ashley Reynolds Marshall (Chair); Aisha Johnson (Secretary); Kristina Hagan; Courtney Hill (present through Zoom); Hyun Lee; Karishma Merchant (present through Zoom); Kara Moran; and Donna Price

Staff Present: Suzanne Holland, Special Assistant for Advisory Board Administration and Director of Women's Outreach; and Olivia Saunders

Others in Attendance: Leigh Nusbaum and Kelley Powell (Committee Advisor)

Welcome, Call to Order, Meeting Overview: Ms. Reynolds Marshall called the meeting to order.

Meeting Minutes Approval and Agenda Adoption: The September 8, 2021 and November 17, 2021 meeting minutes were not approved, and the June 30, 2022 meeting agenda was not approved due to a quorum not being present.

Public Comment: Ms. Holland introduced Ms. Nusbaum who spoke about the need to have IVF treatments included in health insurance coverage. Ms. Nusbaum stated that Virginia is experiencing a population decline and people are waiting longer to introduce children into their lives, making some more susceptible to fertility challenges. States such as Texas, Utah, and Arkansas include IVF treatments in health insurance.

Chair's Report: Ms. Reynolds Marshall discussed the need for new committee chairpersons. Council officers are also open for election or re-election. A vote could not be held since a quorum was not present. Ms. Aisha Johnson inquired about the responsibilities of the Council Vice Chair. Those responsibilities include presiding over the meeting in the absence of the Chair, supporting the Council Chair's vision, and in other advisory councils, oversees the creation of the annual report. Ms. Reynolds Marshall has agreed to continue service as Council Chair, if re-elected. Ms. Hagan has agreed to begin service as Council Vice-Chair, if elected. Ms. Aisha Johnson has agreed to continue service as Council Secretary, if re-elected.

Discussion was held regarding the Committee Chairpersons. Ms. Joseph, the STEAM-H and Education Equity Committee Chair has resigned from the Council due to moving out of state. Five additional Council Members have not been re-appointed following the end of their first terms. Ms. Lee is part of that group and will continue service as a Community Advisor, similar to Ms. Powell's role with the Council. Chairpersons are needed for all Committees including Health Equity, STEAM-H and Education Equity, Workforce Equity, and Civic Engagement. Ms. Reynolds Marshall stated that the STEAM-H and Education Equity Committee is the only committee that follows a strict timeline. Ms. Aisha Johnson stated that outside agencies can partner with committees where appropriate; for example, in 2021 the Virginia Tech Women's Alliance partnered with the Civic Engagement Committee to present a virtual Women's Summit. The following committee chairs were appointed:

- Health Equity Committee:
- STEAM-H and Education Equity Committee:
- Workforce Equity Committee: Ms. Aisha Johnson and Ms. Merchant (Committee Co-Chairs)
- Civic Engagement Committee: Ms. Hill

A discussion was then held about the annual report. Ms. Reynolds Marshall will distribute a draft of the report for members to suggest changes. All suggestions are due by July 31. The following topics were suggested as recommendations to the Office of the Governor.

- Improvements in rural healthcare and fertility treatments included in health insurance plans were suggested to compliment the previous focus on maternal health. The African American Advisory Council's Healthcare Committee has a focus on environmental health, maternal health, and COVID response. The Latin and Asian American/Pacific Islander Councils are focusing on language access in all committees, including Healthcare. The LGBTQ+ Council is focusing on transportation in rural areas. Additional suggestions in the rural healthcare category include lack of providers, lack of culturally competent providers, the assumption that patients have access to transportation, and a lack of facilities. Ms. Merchant commented that business attraction to a locality often relies heavily on healthcare access. Ms. Moran suggested researching how other states address rural healthcare. Other issues include workforce impacted by a lack of healthcare, workers unable to work due to health issues; and menstrual hygiene products in schools. Ms. Moran also inquired about

what was removed from the bill passed regarding doula access to Medicaid patients. Portions of the bill taken out can be added.

- Some of the healthcare issues can also be addressed in the Workforce Equity Committee, to include a lack of healthcare to support healthy employees who are physically able to work. The Latin and Asian American/Pacific Islander Councils are researching the SWaM business certification process and simplifying this process, as well as licensure tests offered in other languages in addition to English.

Ms. Moran suggested including previous reports as appendices to the 2022 annual report.

Closing Remarks and Announcements: Ms. Reynolds Marshall adjourned the meeting. The following dates are upcoming meetings and important dates:

- June 30, 2022, Charlottesville
- August 31, 2022, Virginia State University
- September 2, 2022, Two hour meeting with Governor Youngkin and cabinet regarding annual report
- December 12, 2022, Last meeting of the calendar year

Submitted,

Aisha Johnson, Secretary